STATINTL

U.S. Foreign Policy Called 'Inept'

SIR: We seem to be in serious trouble in Asia and Latin America at the same time and for the same reason—an inept foreign policy.

As to Vietnam. We are pouring men and arms into that unfortunate country in the belief that we can step into the middle of a civil war and tip the balance in our favor almost at will. By now we should have learned differently. It should be evident to the dullest politicians in Washington that we cannot fight a guerrilla war in South Vietnam for the simple reason that we do not look like Asians, we are easily identified as another race of people, we cannot get lost in the population. Our allies who could fight such a war, seem to have no wish to do so. . . .

As for Latin America, in the Dominican Republic in particular we have never shown our foreign policy to be so unsuited for its tasks as it has been proven in that unfortunate land. Some "bright" lad in the CIA, probably agent 007, says he counted 25—or was it 26?—Communists taking part in the latest revolution, and we rush in with thousands of marines to prevent a Communist take-over. . . . At this writing both we and our front organization the OAS seem to have gotten ourselves thoroughly disliked by both sides.

Barbara Ward, in "The Rich Nations and the Poor Nations," makes a telling point about countries like the Dominican Republic when she says that wherever you have an agricultural economy and a steady rise in population that is by and large both poor and hungry, you have trouble. The economy cannot support the population. It may be that whatever we do in places like the Dominican Republic we will always be in trouble.

However, so much trouble in this instance was totally uncalled for, and it probably would not have happened if the Johnson Administration had taken the implementation of foreign policy out of the hands of the Secretary of Defense and the Marine Corps generals and put it back where it belongs, in the hands of the Secretary of State.

HENRY NORDIN.
Baltimore, June 3.

CPYRGHT